

**Environmental Commission
Meeting Minutes
October 5, 2011**

In Attendance:

Greg LoBuono, co-vice chair
Dave Colteryahn
Veronica Craig
Mike Lane
Greg Sunday
Ben Strickler, Parks and Recreation Representative

Meeting was called to order at 6:09 p.m. by co-vice chairperson Greg LoBuono.

Minutes: Meeting minutes for September 7, 2011 were approved with one correction. Dave explained that traps he was discussed last month are put out in April to detect the presence of EAB. This method provides a faster result than waiting until fall, cutting down designated ash trees and examining them for EAB infestation.

Standing Business

Correspondence and Articles: Greg L. shared an article about the discovery of Asian Longhorned Beetle egg sites in Clermont County. This pest preys on more than a dozen types of trees. Maples are its favorite.

Ben brought in two articles, "New herbicide could be linked to sick trees" and "Green Cities Span Coasts" which led to Mike's discussion of a ban on plastic bags. Veronica asked about Rumpke's current recycling list and Mike found it online. He suggested providing a link on EC's website.

EC Activity Hours: Greg L/1, Dave/4, Mike/1, Greg S/4, Liz/1.5, Veronica/2.

Adopt-a-Roadway: Within the next couple of weeks, Greg L. will do this month's clean-up, assisted by Greg S. and Veronica.

Parks Department Report

Website Update: Ben included the stats for last month in this meeting packet.

Huffman Property: The first reading to accept this property was held at the latest City Council Meeting. Two more readings are required for approval. The family and City are working together on plans for an interactive park, complete with walking trails and a pond. The goal is to provide an out-of-the-classroom setting with "hands-on" learning experiences. The house on the property will be torn down. The southern 10 acres will become the interactive park, and the other 10 will be used for the First Tee Program.

Greg S. expressed concern about an entrance and exit being placed too close to the blind spot at the top of the hill on John Gray Road, but Ben explained that the plan does not call for a new, separate entrance/exit. Instead, the current South Trace driveway will be used and the interactive park will be tied into that.

Tree Planting: The Izaak Walton League will sponsor its annual tree planting event for local school children at the North Trace Golf Course.

Big Belly Trash Cans: These large capacity compactors have been placed at Village Green and on the patio of the South Trace Golf Course. Although they are not bolted in yet, they are fully operable. A blinking red light indicates that the compactor is full and should be emptied.

Commission Reports

Birdhouse Workshop: Veronica will contact former EC member Steve Welte to ask if he is interested in participating in a spring workshop. In the past, he has spearheaded this project, assisted by other commission members. "Neighbor Dave," a friend of Steve's, has always helped with the cutting, preparation, and assembly. Possible dates for the workshop: March 10, 17 or 24.

Home Expo: This year's Expo will be held on April 14, 2012.

Other Business

Commission Name Change: Since there were no suggestions for a new name, it was agreed that this commission's name would remain the "Environmental Commission," a.k.a. the "EC."

Ordinance Review: Dave provided the three top EAB links (also included in this month's packet). He asked EC members to look them in the next few weeks so that these links can be examined at next month's meeting for any new management suggestions.

Dave also commented on crabapple trees. Only five varieties are truly resistant, and he was not certain if they are available in this area. He will check and report back to the EC.

Greg S. requested that photos of potential tree choices be added to the EC website to help residents choose a suitable tree from the "acceptable species" list.

Dave suggested that the sweetgum be removed from the list of acceptable trees. In addition, he felt that the river birch should be recommended only for wet areas, and then planted only as a single trunk, rather than the multi-trunk use most commonly seen.

Dave checked this year's city plantings of Norway spruce trees. Two trees along Winton Road and one at Carousel are dead. These should be replaced very soon if they are to be planted before winter weather. This is a much better option than waiting until spring, as fall is the preferred planting time. Dave stressed that time was of the essence.

Tree Lottery: All entries are in. Twenty winners will be chosen and notified. Each be issued a \$250 voucher for a tree at area nurseries. Plantings are no longer restricted to the right-of-way only. Residents may choose any approved tree on the City's approved tree list, and it can be planted anywhere in their yard as long as City guidelines for size, etc. are followed.

Calendar:

Parks Board Meeting – October 11, 2011 at 5:30 pm, CAC

EC Meeting – Wednesday, November 2, 2011 at 6:00 pm, CAC

Street Tree Inventory -- TBA

Adjournment: at 7:14 pm.

